

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and software tool for performing an operation on a graphic object in a display of overlapping graphic objects in a data processing system are provided. The method comprises the steps of detecting the position of a pointer on the display; displaying to a user an indication of potential target objects of the operation which coincide with the pointer position; detecting a selection of one of the indicated potential target objects as the target object; and performing the operation on the selected object.

In the case where the target object is not the outermost layer of the graphic objects on the display, the method may also comprise temporarily making the selected target object visible during performance of the operation on the target object by making the overlying objects transparent. Thus embodiments of the invention avoid the need to rearrange the layers of the objects and achieve manipulation of an obscured object in a single mouse operation.